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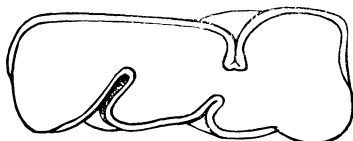
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agree with the corresponding teeth of *Toxodon Burmeisteri*, described and figured by Dr. Burmeister, in the Annals of the Museum of Buenos Aires, 1869, 256, pl. xi.

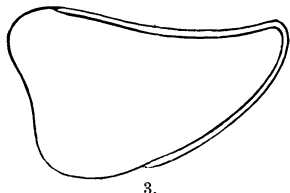
The molar tooth is the penultimate of the left side. Its length,



when complete, has approximated five inches, and it measures 43 mm. fore and aft, and 18 mm. transversely at its fore part. An outline of the triturating surface is represented in figure 2. Enamel invests the

outer surface extending about half way round the corners in front and behind. On the inner surface enamel invests the middle extending furthest behind. The inner angles of the tooth are both destitute of enamel. The outer enamel layer forms a single inflection about the anterior third of the tooth; the inner enamel layer forms two inflections nearly equidistant behind the position of the outer one; the posterior inflection being the deepest.

The incisor, apparently the second lower of the right side, is broken into two about the middle, and when complete has been over six inches long. The transverse section, as seen in figure 3,



viewed from below, is triangular, with the apex directed outward, and the base inward or mesially. The front surface is transversely convex, and the back surface in the same direction concave. The inner surface, extending around the corners, further in front than behind, is destitute of enamel.

The triturating surface is worn away in a slope from the outer border inward and backward. The measurement of the section in front and behind is 37 mm., and internally fore and aft 23 mm.

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JUNE 8.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-one persons present.

A paper entitled "On the Histology of *Salpa* (*S. runcinata-fusiformis*)," by Dr. Chas. S. Dolley, was presented for publication.

*On the Expansion of the Crystalline lens.*—Dr. BENJAMIN SHARP remarked that it is well known that accommodation in the eye, for distance, is effected by the contraction of the ciliary muscle, drawing on the point of attachment of the capsular ligament of the lens, the lens widening its optical axis as soon as the tension

of the ligament is released. The lens is flattened, or its optical axis is shortened, as soon as the ciliary muscle is relaxed; the ligament being drawn upon by the elasticity of the sclera, and perhaps it is somewhat aided by the intraocular pressure. Dr. Sharp stated that as far as he knew the mechanism of the "lenticular expansion" had not been described. This action is easily seen on turning to the development of the lens. The lens is formed by an invagination of the external ectoderm soon closing, and as a result we have a spherical vesicle, soon enclosed in the mouth of the secondary optic vesicle. When this has taken place, the posterior wall of the lens-vesicle thickens, that is, the posterior cells commence to elongate, and grow toward the anterior wall of the vesicle, the cells of which remain, generally speaking, of the same size, and later form the so-called epithelium of the lens. Keeping this structure in view, we see that when pressure is brought to bear on the lens, these elongated cells of the posterior wall are compressed in their longitudinal axis, so that as soon as the pressure is removed, they simply straighten out. This will also account for the fact, that the anterior face of the lens is the only portion that moves in the act of accommodation for distance. In the adult lens this structure is to a certain extent lost, and the lens is generally described as being made up of layers concentrically arranged. This is true, but the embryonic "impression" still remains. If we supposed that the lens were made up of layers concentrically arranged and *so formed*, when the capsular ligament "slacked up" the tendency of the lens would be to shorten its optical axis instead of lengthening it.

*The Opal Mines of Queretaro, Mexico.*—Dr. A. E. FOOTE remarked that the locality referred to is particularly interesting as being the only one in North America that is being worked solely for the production of gems.

The opals of Mexico have been celebrated since 1820, when Karsten and Del Rio referred to the opals of Zimapan and that neighborhood as being in many respects equal and in some respects superior to the Hungarian. There are quite a number of fine localities from which considerable quantities have been exported to Europe, so that among the lovers of the beautiful, Mexico is as well known for its brilliant opals as for the soft and exquisite tints of the tecali or Mexican onyx.

As in the case of diamonds from Brazil and Africa, there is a jeweler's prejudice against the new locality, and they are considered even more unlucky and liable to break than those of Hungary. I have, however, seen in the possession of Senor Cosio magnificent specimens that had been taken out over ten years, and were without a flaw.

The locality in Queretaro is the only one in Mexico that is being worked to any extent now.